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A PROCLAMATION.

By JOSEPH E. BROWN,

Governor of Georgia.

RELIABLE information having been received by me, that there is at present, a very considerable number of deserters and stragglers from the military service of the Confederate States, within the limits of this State, who, after having volunteered and entered the service, have ingloriously abandoned their country's flag and their brave comrades in arms; and it being represented that numbers of these deserters, encouraged by disloyal citizens in the mountains of North-eastern Georgia, have associated themselves together with arms in their hands, and are now in rebellion against the authority of this State and the Confederate States, robbing loyal citizens of their property, and threatening to burn their dwellings and do other acts of violence; and it being my determination, while I do all in my power as the Executive of the State, to maintain her rights and her sovereignty in the Confederacy as well in times of revolution as in times of peace, to exercise all the power and authority vested in me, to cause the Government and people of the State to do their whole duty to the Confederacy, and to the people of the sovereign States of which it is composed, and not only to respond in future, as I have in every instance promptly done in the past, to every call made upon this State for even more than her just quota of men and means, to carry on the war till our independence is fully established, but to compel all who have deserted and sought refuge within this State, whether they be Georgians or not, to return to the discharge of duty. I therefore issue this my Proclamation, commanding all persons as well officers as privates, within the limits of this State, who have been actually engaged in the military service of the Confederate States, and who have deserted, or are otherwise absent from the respective commands to which they belong, without legal furlough, or order from the officers having the right to command them; or who have overstayed the time allowed them without Providential hindrance, to return to their respective commands immediately after the publication of this notice; and I invoke the pardon of the Confederate authorities for all such, who return to their duty within twenty days, but ask, that the penalties of the law be rigorously inflicted upon all who refuse so to do; and I call upon the good people of this State to bring to bear, the powerful influence of a just public opinion in condemnation of all deserters and stragglers no matter what may be their position, wealth or influence. And I also hereby command and require all militia officers of this State with the forces under their command if necessary, and all sheriffs and constables with all

persons subject to their commands, to be vigilant and active, in arresting all persons, who may be found within their respective jurisdictions, who belong to any military organization in the service of the Confederate States, who cannot show that they have the legal authority, or order, of their commanding officers to justify such absence; and to deliver such persons when arrested, to any officer commanding any company or regiment in the military service of this State. And I also direct each and every officer in command of either of the two regiments now being formed for State service, or of any company of which they are comprised, to arrest all such persons, using all the force necessary for that purpose; and to receive into their custody all such, when tendered by any militia officer or sheriff or constable of this State, and to send all such deserters or stragglers under a sufficient guard to General Mercer at Savannah, or to Col. G. W. Lee, commanding the Post at Atlanta, as the one or the other place may be nearest and most convenient; to be disposed of as the Secretary of War may direct. I also direct all loyal citizens of this State to report to the officers above mentioned, or to the State troops in service, the names of all persons, as well officers as privates, suspected to be deserters, or to have overstayed the time allowed by their furloughs, and to render to the State officers all the assistance in their power in executing the instructions herein contained, and in ridding the State of all deserters or stragglers who disgrace her soil. And I also warn all disloyal citizens to cease to harbor deserters, or encourage desertion, or to commit further acts of disloyalty, or hostility to this State or the Confederate States, as the law against treason will be strictly enforced against all who subject themselves to its penalties. Any person who shall commit any overt act of treason, by taking up arms against this State, or the Confederate States, or by adhering to their enemies, or giving them aid or comfort, will be arrested and confined in the common jail of the county where the crime is committed, or if the jail is insufficient, or their is danger of rescue, in such other jail of this State as the presiding Judge of the Circuit shall direct. And all persons hereafter encouraging desertion, or harboring deserters, or committing other acts of disloyalty, will be arrested and delivered to General Mercer at Savannah, or Col. Lee at Atlanta, to be dealt with as the Confederate authorities may direct under the laws of force; and the rules and articles of war.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of this State at the Capitol in Milledgeville, this 17th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1863.

JOSEPH E. BROWN,
By the Governor:
N. C. BARNETT, Secretary of State.

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